

Science labs
aren't the only
X-periments
around here!



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Have you seen the
new faces around
campus?



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Sabres share their
talents in the
Student Forum.



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Sabre sports are on
the prowl. See the
inside views.



pages 10-11

October 27, 1999

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXVI

THE SABRES' BLADE

Lisa Payerle named Miss South

By Neil Smith
STAFF WRITER

The Miss South pageant washeld Friday, September 17, in the school auditorium. Lisa Payerle was crowned as this year's Miss South and Amy Ross as the runner up. The title of Miss South is given to a senior through competition in an annual pageant. Lisa Payerle will now go on to represent South Mecklenburg in the Carousel Pageant and Thanksgiving parade.

Lisa is a co-editor of the yearbook as well as vice president of Sabres Out to Serve club. She is a member of the Beta Club and the National Honor Society. Lisa is in the top of her class academically and participates in many volunteer activities in her community. Lisa teaches Bible school and volunteers with the underprivileged children in the area, and gives time to the Mercy South Hospital maternity ward.

After winning the title, Lisa said, "Being in the Miss South pageant was a lot of fun and I



After her crowning Lisa Payerle poses with fellow contestants Rifka Tannenbaum (left) and runner up Amy Ross (right).

Yearbook Photographer

am looking forward to representing South Mecklenburg at the Carousel Pageant in a positive way."

The Miss South Pageant works following certain guidelines. First, 20 candidates are interviewed and selected based on their academic achievements, school activities, and community involvement. These candidates then participate in the Miss South pageant. The pageant, hosted by Graham Long, Senior Class President, began with each contestant wearing business attire and introducing herself to the four judges. Next, each contestant presented herself in a costume that she assembled to try and express an aspect of her personality. Some of this year's costumes included a storm cloud, Quinn Marvin; a tree, Kendra Rau; a baby, Lisa Payerle; and an Energizer Bunny, Missy Ratliff. The contestants were then presented in their evening wear with an escort. At this point the judges narrowed the contestant field down to seven finalists. Each

finalist then drew a question to answer. The questions were generally focused on a social or moral issue. Then, based on pageant performance and candidate biographies, the judges awarded the title.

This year's finalists were Tiffany Corbell, Emily Ness, Lisa Payerle, Kendra Rau, Missy Ratliff, Amy Ross, and Rifka Tannenbaum.

As the Carousel representative from South Mecklenburg, Lisa must begin by completing an extensive application and then go on to spend part of her Thanksgiving weekend in a hotel downtown along with the other contestants. The weekend will be filled with interviews, evaluations, and socializing. Finally, there is a Coronation Ball in which the Carousel Queen is announced. The following day, the winner and all of the contestants ride on floats in the Thanksgiving Day parade.

The Sabres' Blade congratulates all of the contestants in the Miss South pageant.

Sabre Spirit: The end of a legacy

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

At the beginning of August, this year's Sabre cheerleaders were surprised to learn they would no longer be able to cheer competitively. The decision to end South's

competitive cheerleading program was brought on by many factors. Coach Alex Thomas remembers a few of them, "Cheerleading season was always great but competition wore us out. We were an awesome squad and won national titles, but were never recog-

"Competition wore us out"

nized by the staff, faculty, or students as an athletic sport." Cheerleaders maintain that they rarely felt they were backed by the school as other sports were. As a competitive squad, South has held two national titles in cheerleading including one national championship. Many squad members were upset to hear that they would no longer be able to showcase their talents on a competitive level. Squad member Terry Fisher recalls, "One benefit of a competition squad is the close friendships the girls establish." Coach

Tanya Branham also notes that, "It [competition] was a fabulous time to get to know the girls outside of school."

Despite the cheerleaders' disappointment, both the J.V. and Varsity squads are excited about football season. The Varsity squad is made up of eight seniors, the most it has had in several years, along with several returning juniors. "We have a really good squad with a lot of dedicated girls," says varsity cheerleader Jennifer Zuerner.

The J.V. squad also consists of talented girls who are equally enthusiastic about beginning the season. With an

older squad, they are confident they will be able to pull off a great season. "The South cheerleaders have a lot of talent and we are ready for the opportunity to show it off," says sophomore Anna Friend.

With the new squads in place, the Sabre cheerleaders have been given the job of increasing school spirit. The coaches and cheerleaders have been working very diligently making posters and banners in order to enthuse our student population about sports and the school in general. With excitement about Homecoming growing, the two squads will join forces to battle the East Meck

Eagle Cheerleaders. The twenty-one squad members have had to get used to not competing nationally but are still very happy about spreading Sabre Pride.

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Too Much Emphasis is Placed on Celebrities

More attention must be paid to the people who keep society running

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

Nowadays, too much value is placed on who a person is rather than what they do. We live in a very materialistic society where our worship falls upon entertainment and sports stars, rather than the people who have traditionally been heroes, such as literary characters and charity workers. It is time for ordinary workers who do an extraordinary job, such as teachers, to receive the recognition (and salary) that they deserve.

Today, celebrities time is more in demand. As a result, they feel that they deserve more money than ever before for doing the same job that they were doing before. These movie stars feel that since they are in the public eye so often, they deserve to be paid that way.

It is preposterous that anyone should earn upwards of \$20 million for a movie, \$1 million per episode of a half-hour

sitcom, or thousands of dollars for a guest appearance. No one is so special or irreplaceable that they deserve such an absurd amount of money. By paying one person so much money, the impression is being given that his time is more important and more valuable than your average John Doe and that he is a member of a new aristocracy.

Some say that celebrities deserve what they earn. True, they give up a certain sense of privacy and normalcy when they choose their careers. Additionally, being famous requires a certain amount of upkeep. Designer clothes are the expected norm and not having the right clothes and hair can be disastrous to one's career. For example, when Alicia Silverstone was making the movie *Batman Forever*, she was photographed looking a little heavier than she had been previously. She was crucified by the press, numerous jokes were made about her, and her career

seemed to stall for a little while. Still, there are developing countries in this world with a gross national product lower than that of Jim Carrey's salary for *The Truman Show*. Families living in acute poverty manage to survive (not thrive or have a high quality of life, but merely survive) on less than \$450 a month.

Society today needs to prioritize. Why not give such high salaries to workers who are more deserving? Teachers, for instance, spend ten months out of the year working hard to provide an education for today's youth, yet they receive next to nothing in terms of salary. Some teachers even devote part of their summer to workshops and other various activities designed to enhance their abilities and make their student's learning environment better. However, their monetary compensation is so low, especially in North Carolina, that it is laughable. The average salary for an entry-level teacher in Charlotte-

Mecklenburg for the 1998-1999 school year, for instance, was \$25,602. Their work is frustrating at times and many teachers must put in long hours on top of their day job at a night or weekend job just to make ends meet. Just like celebrities, these teachers have needs. There is rent to be paid, bills to be paid, food to be bought, and so on. Celebrities have the same types of needs, but their monetary base from which to do it is much larger. There are other types of workers as well, people who do not receive the amount of attention that celebrities do but work just as hard, if not harder, to make everyone's life more comfortable.

Society's values today are skewed. It is vital to the survival of the country that people begin to be appreciated for what they do, not who they are. There will always be people who are known for their talent. However, that does not necessarily make them better people.

News and Views on Hurricanes

Hurricane's Eye Misses Charlotte

The sun was bright. The sky was blue. The ground was dry. Oh yeah, Hurricane Floyd just came barreling through.

It was Thursday, September 16. No school due to inclement weather. "How unfortunate," I thought as I buried my weary, sleep-deprived body back under the blanket.

There was no national holiday, no religious celebration. There was a hurricane. Not that I could see, but there was a hurricane.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system is under a lot of fire right now after Judge Potter shot down desegregation. So let's pat them on the back for this hurricane decision, as it might have saved many lives. How many school children would have been unnecessarily put at risk by attending school on September 16? The thought is spine chilling.

By Jay Parsons
Editor-in-Chief
The Myers Park Hoofprint

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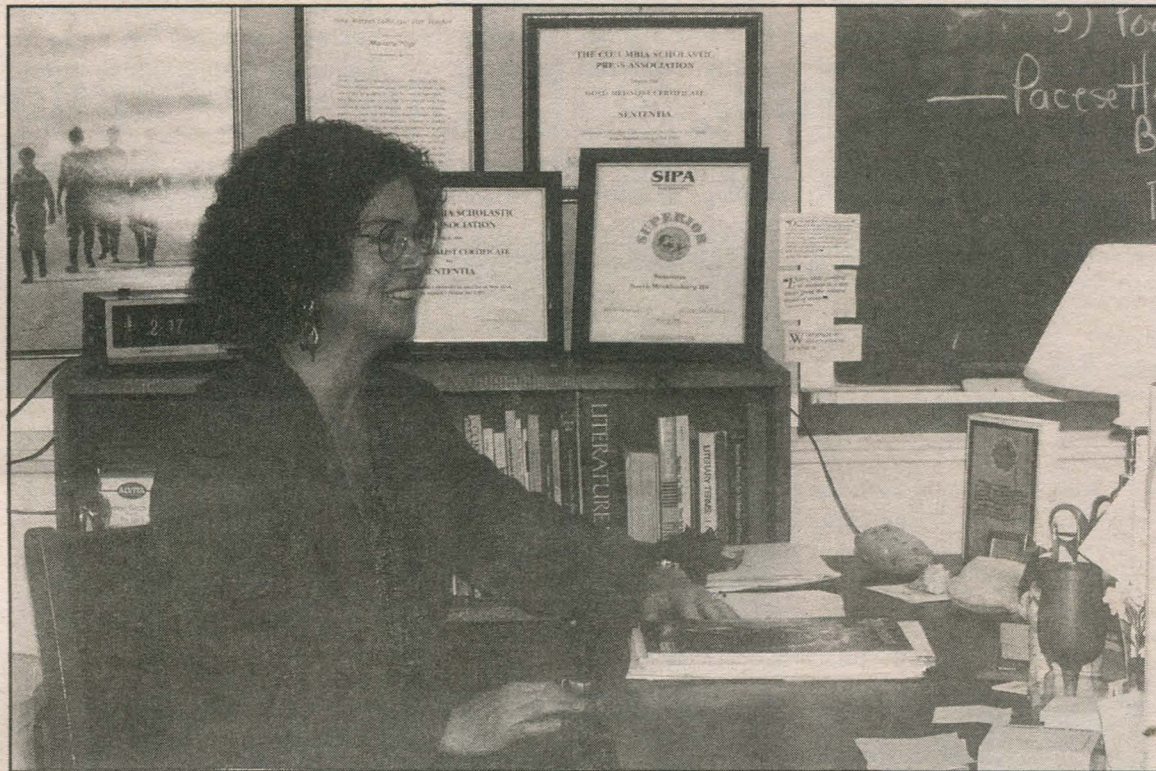
Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Smith makes the connection Susan Smith helps students relate to English

Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

After more than 4,500 students in thirty years, Ms. Smith still loves her job as a teacher. According to her, she never gets bored. Inside the classroom and out, she is always finding new things to do to keep her life interesting. For example, Ms. Smith has always been enthusiastic about taking her students to plays and museums. She also gets to know them as more than just high school students. In fact, Ms. Smith says that her students are some of her best friends. "Boring students bore me," she says, so she tries to keep her classes as challenging as possible.

Ms. Smith attended Furman University to get her undergraduate degree in psychology and then UNCC for her masters. She says that she would have liked to get her PhD but that raising her daughter took priority over going back to school. However, Ms. Smith is proud to say that her daughter got her degree in veterinary medicine; now there is at least one Dr. Smith. Following graduate school, Ms. Smith went to East Mecklenburg to teach eleventh grade English.

After twenty-two years of



teaching at East Mecklenburg, Ms. Smith left teaching to become the editor of Lake Norman Magazine. While supervising a staff of fifteen, she began to miss teaching. She tells a story that after she left teaching, she would run into her old students or parents of former students who were always asking her why she had left teaching. She would also

see younger students who had hoped to have her as their En-

"Insist on yourself."

glish teacher when they got to eleventh grade. Ms. Smith recalls that anywhere and every-

where she went, there were always students wishing she was still teaching. This went on for the entire time she stayed away from her former job. Yet once she came to South to start teaching again, she didn't see another former student or parent. Ms. Smith believes it was a part of her destiny that all those people constantly urged her to resume her teaching job.

Ms. Smith received a camera for Christmas one year, but initially she just let it sit around. She was afraid she would break the very expensive gift. However, when Ms. Smith finally began to experiment with her new camera she found success in the art of photography. She says that photography is another way to share with others all the connections she sees in the world around her. She has her first gallery showing in October at Barnes and Noble in the Centrum shopping center.

As a teacher, Ms. Smith believes that each student is a work in progress. She says some teachers experience burnout because they don't often get to see the end result of all their hard work. If Ms. Smith could tell students one thing, it would be to "remember to go back and say 'Thank You'." She wants students everywhere to know that teachers need to hear that they have made an impact.

Ms. Smith believes, as Ralph Waldo Emerson says, "Insist on yourself. Never imitate." Furthermore, she believes that life is three things: head, hands, and heart. She tries to instill that same idea in her students: always follow your dreams and work hard to make your dreams come true.

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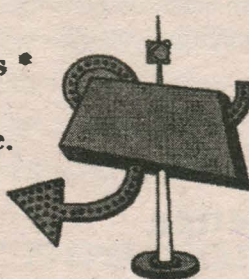
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South Meck Welcomes New Teachers

This year South welcomed 30 new teachers to the staff. Some of them have been teaching for many years, while others are just out of college. All of them add a new and fresh spirit to South Mecklenburg High. They are all looking forward to teaching and working here. The *Sabres' Blade* would like to introduce them and let everyone get to know these teachers just a little better.

English

Mrs. Desiree McClain is a new English teacher at South, but not new to teaching. She has taught for the past 16 years and also ministered in Ohio and overseas. McClain was recruited to teach for CMS. She teaches senior English - regular, advanced, and AG. Someday she would like to write a book on "brokenness," broken hearts, lives, and dreams. Eventually, she also wants to go into ministry full time.

After **Mr. James Riley** graduated from Queens College he came to South last year as a student teacher and worked with Mrs. Morris. This year he's back as a regular teacher. He attended Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania where he was the editor for his college newspaper, as well as a writer for the city newspaper. Mr. Riley teaches advanced English 11, SAT prep, grammar and composition. He's very enthusiastic and glad to be at a school where he likes his students and colleagues. He is also looking forward to getting involved in the academic programs.

Ms. Lisa Holm is the new journalism adviser at South, and she also teaches AG, advanced, and regular English 10 - world literature. She taught public relations, creative writing, and literature and composition at Queens College for 2 years. She was a reporter and editor for the *Gaston Gazette*, a freelance writer for the *Charlotte Observer* for 6 years, and worked in public relations at Discovery Place. So far she is pleased with her classes and confesses that they're more interactive than Queens students, which is encouraging.

Ms. Shuping came to South from graduate school at Agnes-Scott college with a master's degree in teaching, so this is her first teaching job. Before becoming a teacher she was a banker for 6 years, as well as an assistant copy editor for the *Fulton County Daily Report* in Atlanta, a legal newspaper. Ms. Shuping teaches regular, advanced and AG senior English which she enjoys because she likes teaching British Literature.

Before **Ms. Glander** came to South she taught at Central Cabarrus and Concord High schools for 2 years. She also taught at UNCC when she was in graduate school studying English. She

teaches regular and advanced English 11, creative writing, and grammar; she is also the new Interkey Club adviser. Ms. Glander says that she has received a warm welcome from the English department and is happy to observe that students here want to learn and do well in school.

Social Studies

Ms. Thompson graduated from Erskin College, and now teaches regular, AG, and advanced US history classes. She admits that US His-

in mathematics and was a student teacher. She teaches geometry in the M-8 trailer and she wants her students to "enjoy learning."

Mr. Sam Funchess is also a new teacher. He went to Morris College in South Carolina where he earned a bachelor's degree in science. This is his 27th year of teaching; he spent 10 of those years in Dazle, SC, and has been in the Charlotte-Meck schools system for the past 16 years. At South he teaches geometry, regular and AG.

"If you look, listen, and write, you've added a dimension to your ability to learn." --Mr. Funchess

After completing his undergraduate coursework at Presbyterian College, he went to Clemson University to attend graduate school.

"Biology is everywhere; it's all around you at all times."

--Mr. Kelly

Mr. Kelley also says that South's friendly faculty and students are making his first year of teaching one to remember.

Special Education

at Lynchburg College in Virginia because she wanted to make a difference to kids who really need help.

Ms. Michelle Thompson has spent three years teaching outside Fort Worth, Texas but is now ready to begin anew at South. A graduate of Southern Methodist University in Dallas with a degree in psychology, she later returned for her teaching certificate. Though she's far away from home, Ms. Thompson has been impressed by the welcoming faculty and students South has to offer. She loves teaching self-contained classes in H building because she loves to know that children need her.

Vocational

Ms. Hickel is a first time fashion merchandising and marketing teacher. She is Mr. Hickel's daughter and went to South Meck a mere five years ago. The most embarrassing thing that has happened to her so far was Coach Zelk kicking her out of the teacher workroom because she looked so young. Her favorite thing about teaching is getting to know the different personalities of all her students.

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." --Ms. Hickel

Ms. Wimberly is a new and first time marketing teacher here. She came here from GA Tech where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in science and business management. She loves teaching her fashion merchandising and marketing classes and essentially wants to help her students better themselves. She admits that even though they may not realize that now, they will see it in the future, and come back and thank her. Her ultimate purpose is to help her kids do well in life.

Mr. McGinnis is the newest addition to the technology department. Before he joined South he taught at Olympic and West Charlotte high schools for five years each, and after several years of running his own business he decided to come back to teaching. But he teaches more than just technology; he believes in the overall education of the student and takes the holistic approach to his class. He teaches cooperation and how to work well in a group. McGinnis admits that the student body here is more mature than average. He says he loves learning, and keeps things interesting and moving and in his classroom.

Continued on Page 5



tory is her favorite subject, and says that her favorite part about history is learning about the individuals in history and their contribution to it, as opposed to plain dates. She says that she's glad to be here because everyone seems interested in the overall education, plus she likes the behavior of her students.

Math

Ms. Susan Norris is new to South, but not new to teaching. Ms. Norris went to Erskin College in South Carolina, where she majored in business education and mathematics. Following graduation, she taught Algebra I and II at Garinger High School. At South she teaches Algebra II, regular and AG, and Integrated Math.

"I love all of my students and I am very happy here."

--Mr. Norris

Ms. Bridget Young is new to teaching and to South. She went to the State University of New York, or SUNY-Fredonia. There she majored

Ms. Baker graduated from Appalachian and has been teaching for nineteen years. Before she came to South she taught at Kennedy Middle School. She likes high school because it is more flexible and the kids have more freedom. She is most excited about being able to sit and eat lunch in peace because she had to eat lunch with the kids at the middle school. Here she teaches regular Algebra.

Mrs. Armstrong taught at CPCC and Queens College for five years before she joined the South Meck staff. She says that she prefers public schools because they offer more to teachers and hold students accountable which she believes is beneficial to the community. Armstrong admits, "I love learning and love to be able to better myself at what I do." She teaches pre-calculus concepts and pacesetter pre-calculus.

Science

Biology teacher **Mr. Chad Kelley** is the science department's newest addition.

Mrs. Amanda Godbey, is enthusiastic about her first year at South. A former teacher at East Mecklenburg, she is now co-teaching ELP classes and dealing with volumes of paperwork in her office at the same time. Mrs. Godbey says she has wanted to teach since she began her major in education at Appalachian State University. Her excitement about the 1999-2000 school year is always apparent as she exclaims, "Go South! Go!"

Ms. JoLynn Neal did not graduate from Ohio State with the intention of becoming a teacher. In fact, she spent several years as a parole officer in Florida before returning to school for her teaching certificate. As a ninth grade English co-teacher, Ms. Neal's favorite thing about South has been the warm, friendly staff and students. She looks forward to more active teaching roles in the future but is extremely happy to be where she is.

Ms. Janice O'Brien transferred to South to teach self-contained classes after two years of teaching in Connecticut. She teaches five different subjects including math, social studies, and English. She received her bachelor's degree in education

Superstar is worth the price of Admission

By Lindsay Buchert
STAFF REPORTER

Who would have thought that a girl whose feelings would best be expressed in a monologue from a made-for-TV movie would ever become a superstar. *Superstar*, starring Molly Shannon, is based on the Saturday Night Live skits of Mary Katherine Gallagher, the Catholic school girl. Since late 1995, audiences have been entertained by the misadventures of Mary Katherine in her glasses, red hairband, knee socks, and short, plaid uniform skirt. The character, which Shannon created in college, has been seen on SNL with guest hosts such as Aerosmith, Rosie O'Donnell, Lisa Kudrow, Jeff Goldblum, Scott Wolf, Anthony Edwards, and New York City mayor Rudolph Guliani.

Mary Katherine Gallagher, a student at St. Monica's Catholic High School, has one dream. She wants to be kissed—just like in the movies. As the "rewind-girl" at a video store, she watches many movies and becomes infatuated with her desire to be kissed. Mary Katherine dreams of being kissed by Sky Korrigan, played by Will Ferrell, also of Saturday Night Live, the "cutest guy in all of St. Monica's" who makes up dances such as the "pepper mill and fax machine." However, he is dating the bulimic Evian, played by Elaine Hendrix, who is trying to bet-



Still pursuing her dream of being kissed, a nun catches Mary Katherine passionately kissing a tree.

Movie: *Superstar*
Stars: Molly Shannon and Will Ferrell
Worth it? Definitely

ter society by taking part in "the walk for glaucoma." Mary Katherine feels the only way to be noticed is to become a Hollywood superstar in the movies. As luck would have it, her school is putting on a talent show sponsored by Catholic Teen Magazine to fight venereal disease. The winner will win a trip to Hollywood to be an extra in a movie displaying "positive moral values." However, her disabled grandmother will not let her audition.

Still pursuing her dream of being kissed, Mary Katherine is caught by a nun, passionately kissing a tree. As a result, she is taken to the principal's office. Her feelings on the issue, "which would best be expressed in a monologue from a made-for-TV movie," are not taken into consideration and she is placed in special ed. classes. In these classes, she is placed with her new friend Helen, the large center of the girl's basketball team, and a variety of other misguided characters.

While in the cafeteria, Sky tells Mary Katherine that he likes her dance moves, upon which the entire cafeteria breaks into the robot dance. As the movie progresses, Sky and Evian break up and a jealous rage causes Evian to fight with Mary Katherine. Mary Katherine then auditions for the talent show, despite her grandmother's wishes, but Evian humiliates her during her audition. Slater, a mute friend from the special ed

classes, comes to the rescue and consoles her, where upon he actually talks. The special ed. children come together to serve as Mary Katherine's chorus line in the show. Taught by the grandmother, they work to truly make her a superstar. *Superstar* opened October 8th and runs for approximately an hour and a half. While many other SNL skits were not as effective on the big screen (*A Night at the Roxbury* was also from S.N.L.), this one made the change quite well. The character of Mary Katherine is developed much more effectively in her movie than in the short fifteen minute skits. Shannon executes the character of Mary Katherine flawlessly, even more so than in the four years that she played the character on television. Will Ferrell also wonderfully created Sky, who has never appeared in the television skits. Though the beginning was somewhat slow, *Superstar* quickly picked up the pace and began a hilarious tale of a teenager in search of fame. The movie is a perfect example of how comedies really should be, complete with love, the quest for one's self and a cast full of wonderful characters. Granted, it would be easier to understand if you watch Saturday Night Live, and even more so if you have ever attended Catholic schools. But even without those experiences it is still a great movie. In the end, *Superstar* is definitely worth the price of admission.

New Teachers

Continued from Page 4

Drama

Mr. John Proctor is an interesting addition to the vocational department this year. He teaches small business and marketing. After receiving his graduate degree in engineering, Mr. Proctor worked as an engineer in Angola, Africa. Through this experience he has learned to speak Portuguese fluently. Here at South, Mr. Proctor finds his current group very successful and is impressed with their eagerness to learn. It is seeing enthusiasm in his students that makes teaching most enjoyable for him.

Health/PE

Coach Bill King is a dedicated and experienced addition to the Physical Education department. Every swimmer already knows King, because he is the Sabre Swim Team coach. Before coming to South, Mr. King taught health and PE on the college level at the College of Charleston and was also a swim coach for thirty years in Charleston. Mr. King finds he is sometimes challenged at maintaining interest among his students, but loves teaching none-the-less.

Mr. Darryl Aaron is clearly a very talked about teacher this year due to his amazing energy in theater. He is the new drama instructor at South. Aaron is a Charlotte native and is currently a social pastor at First Baptist West. Speaking with Mr. Aaron is a most interesting experience. Every word from his mouth contains a great amount of thought and value. Aaron says

"Before you can teach, you must be willing to learn."

he learns just as much from his students as they learn from him, and maintains a very open mind about teaching. He says, "Before you can teach, you must be willing to learn."

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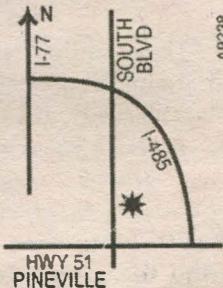
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Answers to Senior Mysteries:

Krysta Zellers and Justin Hsu

Students Speak Out

What was your opinion of the first week of school?

"My classes are a lot harder than last year."

-Allison Booth,
grade 10

"I got bushed twice on the second day. It was okay though because I have the privilege of bushing other people when I'm older."

-Dimitri Nakos,
grade 9

"It was the best ever because I knew it was the beginning of my last year of high school."

-Chris Moore,
grade 12

"It was a lot better than last year. I didn't have to worry about having to sing or getting an 'F' written me."

-Lori Beth Brown
grade 10

"Being a senior, it was fun to have a chance to 'welcome the freshmen' to South Meck."

-Lisa Payerle
grade 12

"The tradition of bushing and singing is only part of what makes South great."

-Jan Meir
grade 9

What do you want to occur during the remainder of the year?

"Change, excitement, and good grades."

-Kathleen Durkin
grade 10

"I want to have a 4.0 GPA."

-Antaeus Bolden
grade 9

"My goal for the new school year is to do my best in academics and sports!"

-Camille Lee,
grade 11

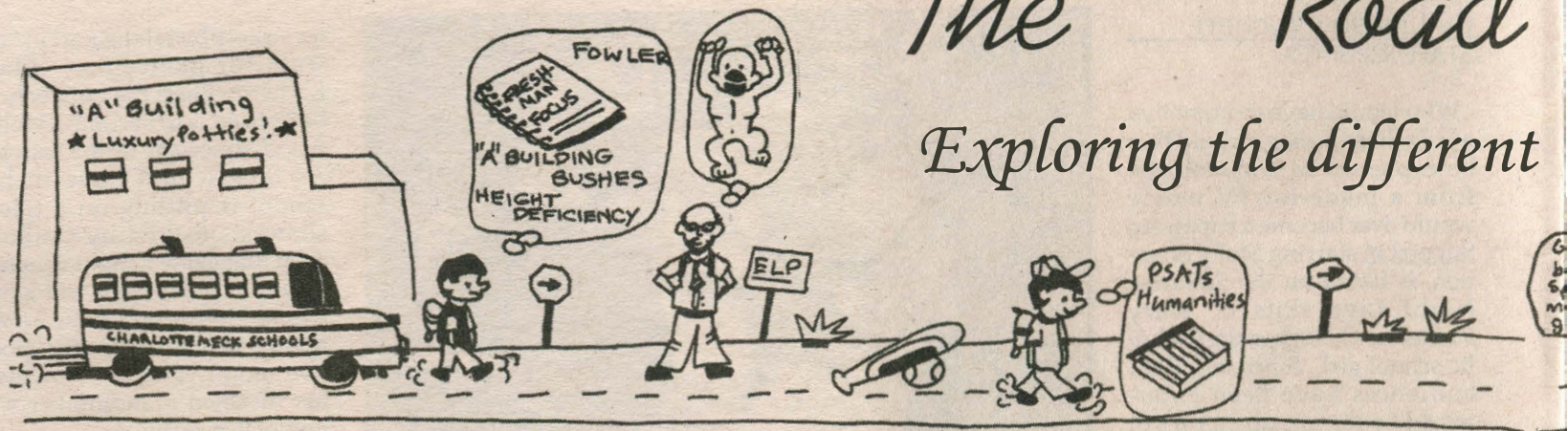
"I would like to do better in my classes."

-Joshua Carriaga
grade 10

"I want all my seniors to get 5s on the AP test and an outbreak of curiosity to break out on campus."

-Mrs. Miklos
senior English teacher

By Lindsay Buchert



The Road

Exploring the different

The Senior Experience

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSREAD EDITOR

From the bottom of the barrel to the top of the heap, the Class of 2000 has finally made it - they are the seniors. Being a senior is something that all students who enter South Mecklenburg look forward to. There are many privileges that are associated with it, from unofficial ones like freshmen initiations to much-appreciated ones like Senior-Out-to-Lunch and Senior Follies.

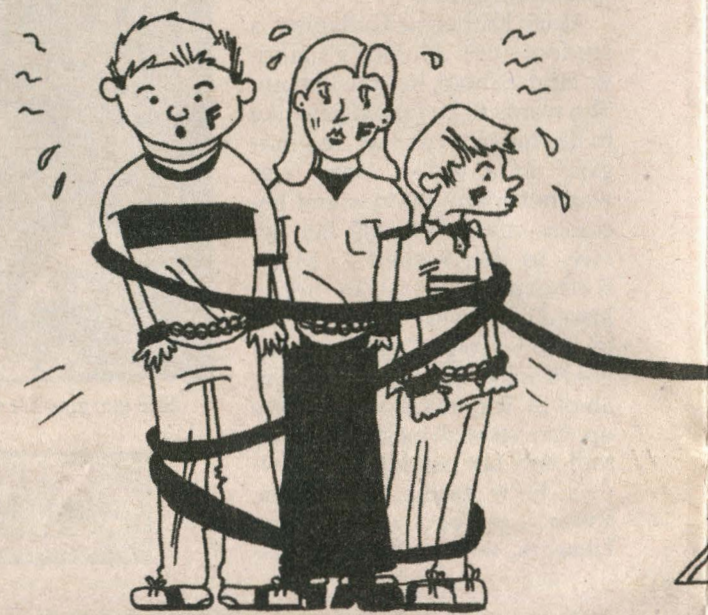
Having been at South Meck for four (or more) exciting years, most seniors are ready to leave and gain their independence at college or in the work force. Thus, Senioritis is a very common ailment. The symptoms of this "disease" include missed homework assignments, leaving campus, and a general lack of desire to do anything that involves prolonging the time spent in school. 2:10 becomes the magic number as the members of the senior class eagerly realize that with each segment of afternoon announcements there is one less day until graduation.

Charles Dickens said in his novel *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Although most seniors outwardly give off an attitude of apathy on the issue of leaving, on the inside, one would most likely find a class that has grown close over the years and is reluctant to say goodbye to one another. Many tears will be shed on graduation day as each senior realizes that this is the end. There will be no more first days of school, no more seeing the people that have meant so much for four years. Even though their life is truly beginning, a major part of it is ending. Even if these times were not the best, it cannot be denied that they were important.

AP classes, field day, Miss South, Homecoming, Senior Follies, 7:20 starting times, SATs, college applications, the upper lot, and memories are all important parts of the senior experience. One must remember to make every moment count - it is almost the last.

"These are the days to remember..."

- Natalie Merchant



Sophomores Standin' Tall

By Stefanie Trotta
and Meg Caldwell
STAFF REPORTERS

On the first day of school, the bell rings. However, instead of being scared of the foliage, you are able to walk to class peacefully. That's the first time that you know you are a sophomore. Being a sophomore definitely has its benefits. Although still underclassmen, sophomores realize with glee and sadness that they only have three more years at South Meck until graduation.

During the 10th grade year classes and class choice become more important. The absence of Freshmen Focus allows for an extra elective. There are fewer EOC classes, which means more exam exemptions. Finally, the best part about being a sophomore is turning sixteen and getting a driver's license. Finally, no more bicycles!

The Top Five Reasons That It Is Great to Be A...

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Senior

Senior year is the place to be. Do you even have to ask why?

5. Senioritis is a great excuse...for everything.

4. Senior Out to Lunch means no more greasy cafeteria food.

3. 2:05 has suddenly become more important than 2:10.

2. Senior superlatives tell you how you'll be remembered in ten years.

1. GRADUATION!!!

Junior

Did you ever wonder just what is so great about being a junior? Here are five reasons

that eleventh grade is tops!

5. You don't have to beg upperclassmen to take you to the prom.

4. AP Classes give you more homework. Fun!

3. Parking in lower lot...at least you have a reason not to wash your car.

2. Now an excuse to skip school - College Days

1. Finally Upperclassmen!!!

Sophomore

10th grade...home of the sophomore slump. But it is not really that bad!

5. Your back muscles double in size from carrying that wonderful World History book.

4. No more freshmen fo-

cus, one more elective.

3. More service clubs finally open their doors to you.

2. Getting a driver's license is a highlight of the year

1. It is finally possible to walk around campus, see a senior, and not turn and hide.

Freshman

Freshmen are at the bottom of the barrel. We have racked our brains to come up with five good reasons to be one.

5. Fun with foliage.

4. Power in numbers. There are a lot of freshmen - like ants.

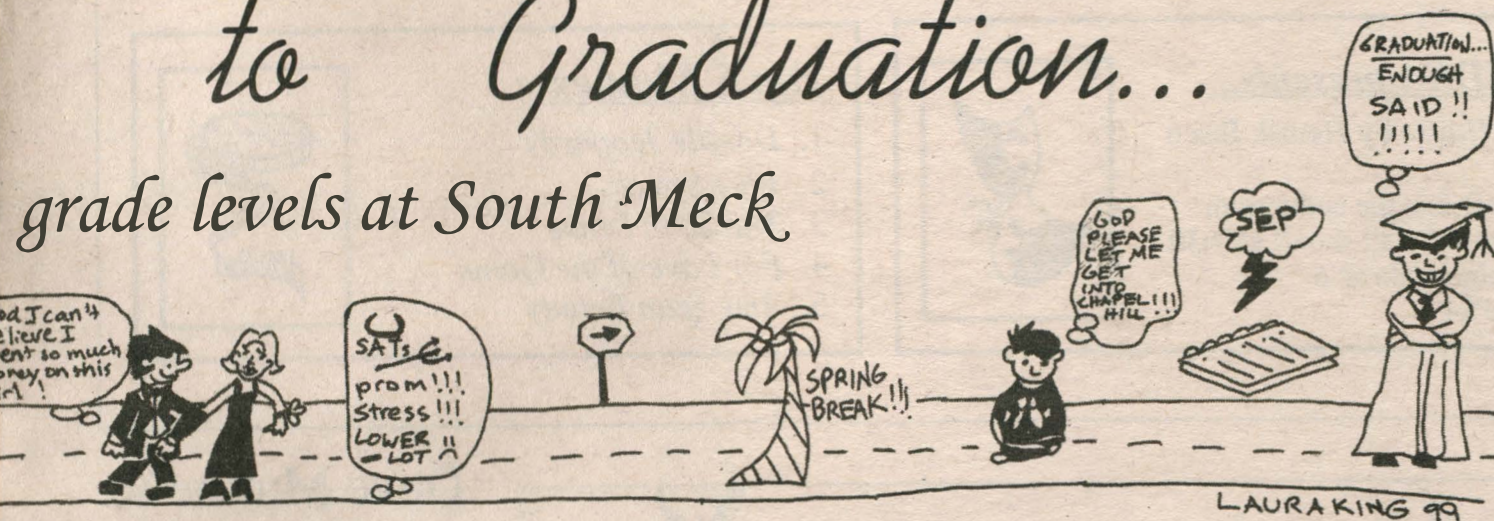
3. A - building bathrooms, go potty in style.

2. Fancy black magic marker make-up.

1. MR. FOWLER...enough said.

to Graduation...

grade levels at South Meck



As a person progresses from freshman to senior, they undergo a visible change. Do any of these people remind you of yourself at one point or another? However, do not feel married to any of these descriptions. Your high school experience is your own; keep it that way.

Focus on Freshmen

By Jason Nark
and Clark Barrineau
STAFF REPORTERS

Once upon a time everyone on campus was a freshman roaming around the courtyard, looking for his/her first period class. If possible, upperclassmen and the senior patio were to be avoided altogether. Of course, some casualties were recorded as dozens of freshmen were sent flying into bushes. Although they understand that it is tradition, many of the freshmen think that the first week's hazing is uncalled for and a bit inhumane.

Despite the lack of respect they receive, being a freshman also comes with perks. Mr. Fowler and his many anecdotes, two English periods, A-build-

ing, and the compassion of Dr. Knox are just a few of the luxuries that South Meck freshmen receive.

Most freshmen feel that ninth grade brings many new experiences. These are the sentiments of most of the new students. To be a freshman is not considered to be the greatest position at South Meck, but the new experience of high school is reason enough for them to enjoy being where they are.

The class of 2003 is ready for whatever the school throws their way. They are eager to continue the traditions of excellence at South Meck.

Juniors: Movin' on Up

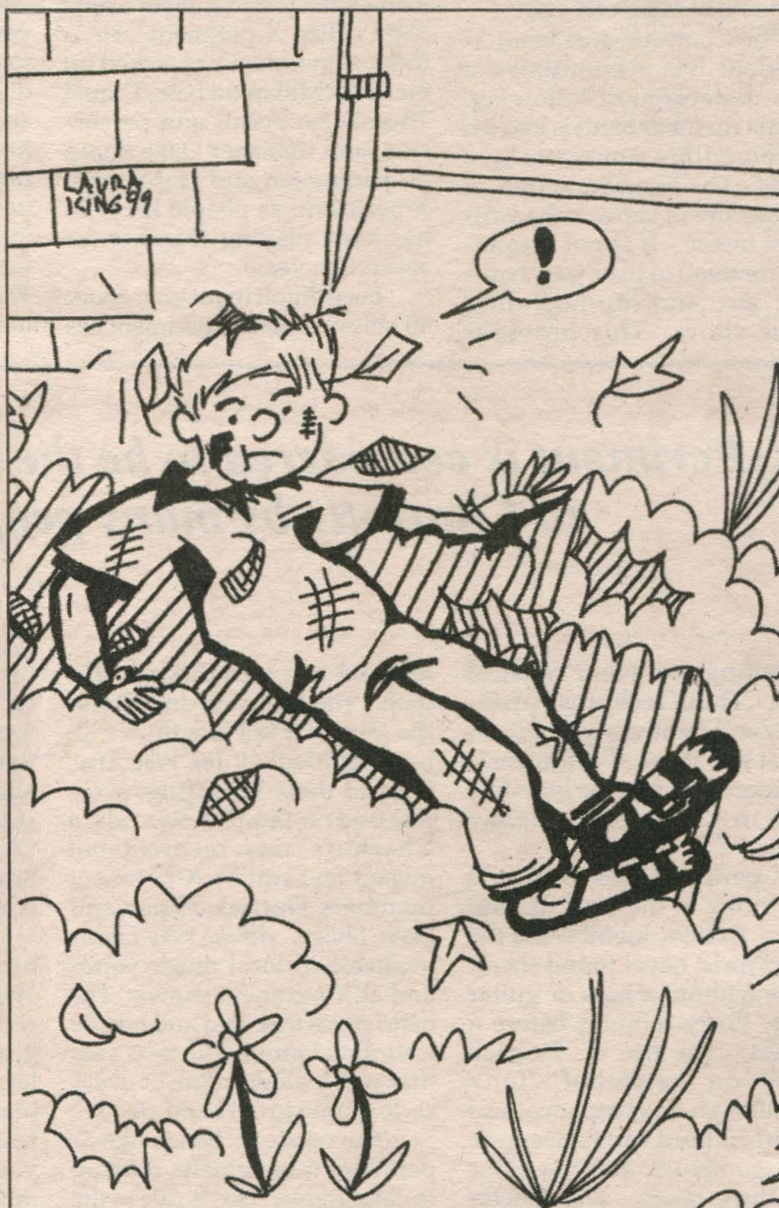
By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

As the cars rolled into the lower lot on the first day of school, the class of 2001 got its first taste of what being a junior has to offer. Touted as the hardest year of high school, junior year is opening new doors for the class of 2001. This year will be filled with students piling on the extracurricular activities to fill up college applications while trying to manage the tough class loads synonymous with junior year. The AP and other high level classes filling the schedules of this year's eleventh graders have begun to make juniors think about college. These thoughts remind them that this year is often the one colleges notice. Additionally, students realize that October's PSAT counts toward National Merit scholarship eligibility, and that the SAT looms menacingly in the near future.

However, junior year is not all work and no play. Along with

the hard work comes new privileges. Eleventh graders can park at school despite the fact that they must battle the dust and dirt of the lower lot. With the new found freedom of having a car on campus, juniors no longer have to beg their friends for rides and are also free to participate in the early work release program.

Driving to school is not the only good thing about being a junior. The thrill of finally receiving class rings will be a nice reminder that they are almost out of high school. Class ranks are also a part of junior year. As former student Lindsey Starnes said at Senior Follies 1998, "When you get your class rank and find out where you stand, it's only then that you realize how many people you're standing behind." Nonetheless, all juniors are thrilled to be UPPER-CLASSMEN!!



After the Road Ends

Looking to the Future and Preparing for College

Freshmen Year

- Talk with parents and counselors about future plans.
- Take challenging classes. Remember, your transcript includes 9th grade!
- Take your classes seriously.
- Attend a National College Fair to get a head start on the college search.
- Participate in extracurricular activities. Try and get heavily involved in one or two activities.

Sophomore Year

- Take full opportunity of the Internship program at South. 10th graders are eligible after 1st semester.
- Take the PSAT for practice.
- Do well in all classes to improve class rank, and take challenging courses.
- Continue involvement in extracurricular activities.

Junior Year

- Make sure to take time out for yourself. This is one of the most stressful years of high school.
- Make sure that you start taking a foreign language, if you are not already.
- Take the PSAT and take it seriously because it is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship.
- Take the SAT in either March, May, or June.
- Begin to compile a list of your activities and awards during high school.
- Start to narrow down the college search. Visit colleges and make lists of the qualities you are looking for in a school.
- Take AP tests if you are enrolled in AP classes.
- If you are a potential college athlete, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- Make sure to register for challenging classes your senior year. Do not drop foreign language. Colleges look heavily at senior year!

Senior Year

- Narrow down your college list. Begin to visit the schools that you are interested in.
- Make yourself aware of all college deadlines and prepare accordingly. DO NOT leave it for the last minute!
- Begin the financial aid process.
- Apply for any and all scholarships available.
- Compile a list of all awards and activities. Give it to the people that you ask to write your college recommendations.
- Take the SAT in October or November. Take any SAT II necessary.
- Avoid Senioritis. This year counts.
- Have fun! You have earned it.

--The band spotlight column will return in the next issue. If you play in a band and would like to be featured, please contact Ms. Holm or a member of *The Sabres' Blade* staff as soon as possible.

SOMEDRA presents...

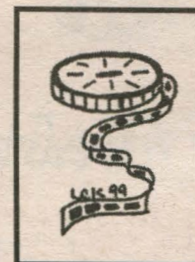
A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

November 3-5 in the auditorium
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Opening night gala @ 6
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Top 5 Movies

1. *Double Jeopardy*
2. *Blue Streak*
3. *The Sixth Sense*
4. *For Love of the Game*
5. *American Beauty*



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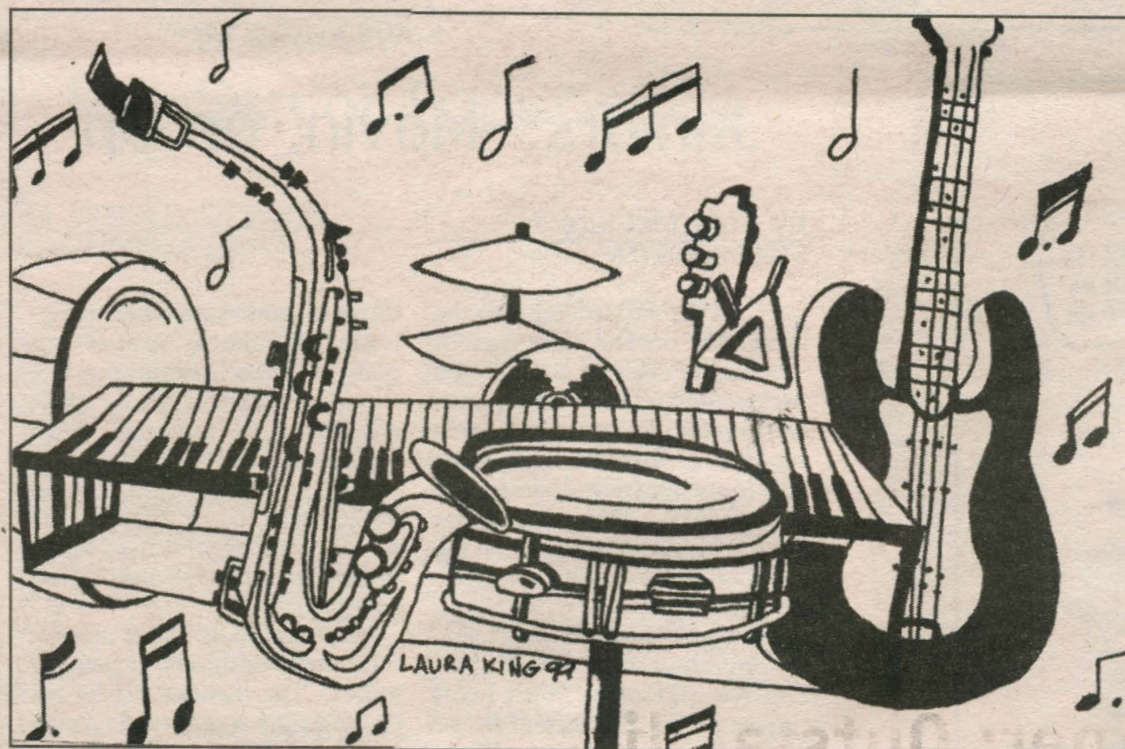
By Meg Caldwell

STAFF REPORTER

If you're a fan of music by any stretch, Manifest is definitely for you. This music store carries the product you've been searching for, whether it be compact discs, videos, T-shirts, books, or magazines. After all, where else can you find CDs, fuzzy dice, and boxing nuns all in the same place?

Manifest is a thriving business based out of Columbia, South Carolina, and it now has seven locations scattered throughout the Carolinas. The Charlotte location is situated on South Boulevard. It is not surprising that this business has grown to be so successful, considering the fact that their number one priority is to make their customers happy. As a music store, they are successful in catering to fans of a variety of styles ranging from bluegrass to hip-hop. In addition, if you're one who loves a good atmosphere, Manifest is a great place. Their employees make sure to cater to their entire customer population by constantly playing music of numerous genres.

If there is one thing that makes Manifest unique, it is the great entertainment they provide: frequent in-store concerts, which are performed on a stage in the center of the store and are always free of charge. They are incredibly supportive of local bands, such as X-Periment, as well as those on the national music scene. Every employee at Manifest is well-educated when it comes to music, so you don't have to be an expert to find what you're looking for. Not only can you purchase CDs at this store, but you can also sell them. If you have any old CDs that aren't getting much rotation, you can bring them by to trade for a new release, or, if you prefer cash, that always works, too. With a motto like "If we can't get it, nobody can," there is no way to lose, so make sure to check out Manifest for all of your music needs.



X-periment: An Increasing Musical Influence in Charlotte

by Neil Smith

STAFF REPORTER

The Charlotte area band X-periment has accumulated a large underground following. This six member band is known for incredibly energetic live shows. The interesting trait of an X-periment show is the variety of music. It is not uncommon for them to play jazz, hardcore, ska, and hip-hop in a single show. This provides

went well and the musicians formed the foundation of a new band called X-periment. Since then, X-periment has picked up Steve McMillan on bass, Daniel Thomas on vocals and percussion, and manager Dave Sharp on percussion and turntables. X-periment, as people know it, has been playing together for about two years.

In addition to playing about 40 shows a year, X-periment has

various musical styles and influences present in their music. X-periment coined the term "virtual lib" to describe the music of bands like themselves. To be considered virtual lib, a band has to display at least three distinct musical influences in their music. X-periment hopes to get local record stores to create a virtual lib section for this music. They eventually would like to have virtual lib music recog-

***X-Periment is considered to be the best live band
in Charlotte by many people.***

something for every musical taste. Their technical proficiency and creativity provide for a great live show. X-periment is considered to be the best live band in Charlotte by many people.

X-periment was born in a way fitting to the style of their music. In 1996, members of the band World Level found themselves without a bass or guitar player thirty minutes before a concert. The trio of Derrick Hines on keyboard, Tony McCullough on saxophone, and Dustin Clifford on drums took the stage anyway and played for over three hours. The concert

released two recordings to this date. The first was an EP, and the second a full length live album entitled *All the Way Live*. Both of these recordings were released on Liquilab Records, a Charlotte area record label owned and run by X-periment members Derrick Hines and Dave Sharp. *All the Way Live* is available in local music stores and at X-periment shows. The band plans to record and release a studio album in the next year that will include some of every style of music the band plays.

The music of bands like X-periment is extremely difficult to categorize. This is due to the

nized by the Academy of Music. X-periment also benefits local charities, such as the Relative and women's shelters. In addition, they would like to start a college radio station in Charlotte and stress the importance of music education in schools.

X-periment is hoping to broaden their audience and eventually build the Liquilab record label. To reach their goals, they play shows in Charlotte frequently and are reaching out into other cities. Go listen to X-periment - you can say you knew them in the beginning.

Dave Matthews Band Captivates Sold-out Crowd

By Laura King

STAFF ARTIST

On July 30, The Dave Matthews Band returned to Charlotte to play to another sold out show at Blockbuster Pavilion. The crowd of 15,000-plus fans endured 100 degree heat and a blazing July sun before the band finally appeared on the main stage at nine o'clock.

The talented quintet of Dave Matthews, Carter Beauford, Boyd Tinsley, Stefan Lessard, and Leroy Moore played a variety of songs ranging from their 1992 debut major label release, *Under the Table and Dreaming*, to newer sounds from their 1998 bestseller, *Before These Crowded Streets*. Some of the most memorable selections were "Lie in Your Graves," "#41" (both from the 1995 album *Crash*), and "Jimi Thing," the single from *Under the Table and Dreaming* that was obviously the crowd favorite. Their music gleamed with the distinct style they are known for: a unique mix of jazz, rock, and funk music and featured the jazz-like improvisations that helped to give the Dave Matthews Band the reputation as one of the best live bands in the business. The overhead lights created a sparkling background worthy of the music itself. After apparently closing with the long-time crowd favorite "Ants Marching," the band exited the stage and didn't reappear until almost 15 minutes later to encore with "What Would You Say" from the *Under the Table and Dreaming* album.

Several noteworthy songs were missing from the lineup, such as "Crush," the second single from *Before These Crowded Streets*. In addition, the encore was not near as memorable as it has been in recent years, a dull spot in a show that was otherwise great. Nevertheless, despite these flaws, the Dave Matthews Band sufficiently managed to defend its reputation as one of the best live bands in the business, a true talent in an industry in which it has become so scarce.

Faces in the Crowd

Haley Houghton: Ambitious and Hard-Working Student On Her Way To the Top.

By Clark Barrineau
STAFF WRITER

Haley Houghton may seem to be an average student on the South Meck campus; she is, however, much more. Haley is active in afterschool activities and is a traveler of the world. She strives to be the best and wishes to pursue all of her goals.

Haley has participated in the student council, was a freshman and sophomore representative in SOMEDRA, a member of Peaceful Sabres, and a member of the Renaissance Club. She has been the manager of the wrestling team for the past two years and is looking forward to her third and upcoming year. This year she is taking three AP classes and two languages.

"I take two languages because when I travel, I want to be able to talk to people," she says. Haley has had the opportunity to use these languages. She has



Julia Flumian / Staff Photographer

Favorite CD: *Armageddon Soundtrack*
Favorite Movie: *Armageddon*
Favorite Food: Pasta
Favorite Color: Red

been to Europe twice and is planning on a third trip this summer. Her first trip was to Slovenia, where she learned about the culture. Her second trip to Europe allowed her to learn the cultures of France, London, Switzerland, and Germany with her father and a group of South Meck students. She hopes to travel to Spain this summer and have another wonderful trip.

"Traveling allows me to see more of the world than Charlotte and South Meck," says Haley.

Haley is an active student, a worldly traveler, and most importantly, a kind person. She wishes to learn more of the world and broaden her horizons. She may seem average at first glance, but she is much more. Her ambition and focus will see her through the rest of her life, and hopefully to a successful one.

If you could pick any celebrity to be president for the millennium, who would it be and why?

"Steve Austin, because he is motivated and he has the energy to pump up the country."
Jimmy Nicopoulos, Grade 11

"Colin Powell because he is a very influential African-American leader. He has demonstrated good leadership skills proven in the Desert Storm operation. That is why I feel he would be a good candidate for president in the up and coming millennium."
Michelle Monteleone, Grade 10

"Lauryn Hill...She is a very positive influence on our society today."
Wendy Johnson, Grade 11

"Jesse Ventura because he is doing a very good job as a governor. He has the ability to keep everyone in line."
Andrew Kipp, Grade 12

"I don't think any celebrity is qualified to be president. To be president, you must be skilled in politics. I cannot name any celebrity that could run our country."
Brandon Wright, Grade 10

"Lauryn Hill, because she is a very knowable person, and she seems very wise. She has a good sense of justice, and I believe she could handle the presidential position."
Amy Smith, Grade 10

"Jesse Jackson because he is a good speaker and a positive role model."
LaToya Luther, Grade 9

Devan Harper: Outstanding Athlete and Dedicated Student Striving for Success

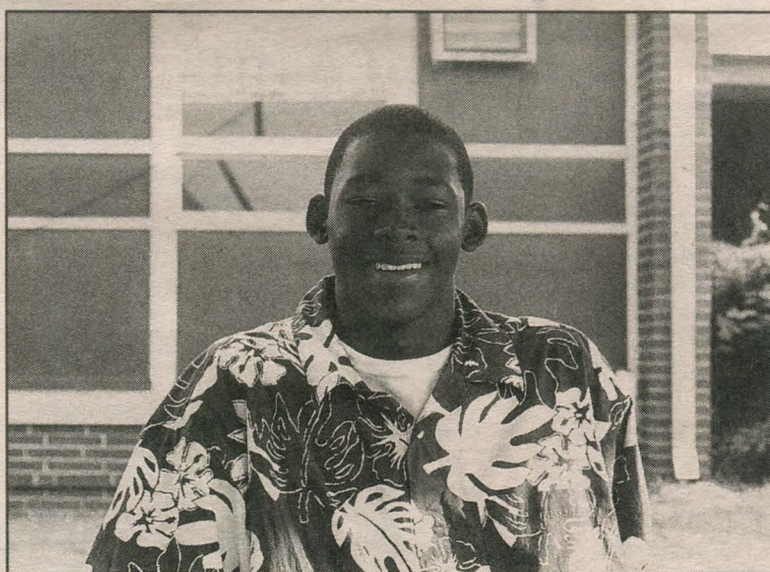
By Stefanie Trotta
STAFF WRITER

Intelligence, determination, and good looks -Devan Harper has it all. Because of his quiet and reserved nature, many people never see Devan's true personality.

This sophomore has his hands full with a difficult schedule of AG and advanced classes. He is also Number 82, wide receiver on the varsity football team, and plans on going out for track in the spring for his second year.

Right now Devan's number one choice for college is UNC-Chapel Hill, and he's working towards an athletic scholarship. If his athletic career doesn't come through for him after high school, however, he'd like to become a chef and says he's already a pretty decent cook.

Teachers also admire Devan's determination and am-



Julia Flumian / Staff Photographer

Favorite Movie: *The Haunting*
Favorite Color: Blue
Dream Date: Tyra Banks
Favorite Food: Shrimp

bition.

Miss Thomas, who had Devan for English says, "He always strives to succeed. Devan is a very dedicated player and he's just great at football."

Devan credits his incredible spirit to his parents. "They always influence me to do my best in everything and not to quit no matter what."

When asked about advice he would give to his peers, right away Devan begins talking about school violence. "We've got to put an end to guns in school," he said. He also encourages his fellow students to stay very focused on their goals and to never lose determination in anything they do.

Overall, Devan is an all around good guy who knows where he wants to take his life. It is his dedication and kind hearted nature that make him a role model for all students at South.

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College Football Preview

Absolutely nothing can beat a hard nose, smash mouth, face bashing season of college football, and the '99 season has promise to be all of the above. The big question is who is going to stand out and separate themselves from some of the most talented student athletes out there.

As far as championships go I never have a sure pick, but if you ask me, #1 ranked Florida State has the talent to bring home the trophy. They have talented athletes that can hurt you from every angle. Take offensive stars running back Travis Minor and receiver Peter Warrick. They are big play makers who will punish defenders with their speed. Both of these FSU stars will be getting the rock from flawless quarterback Chris Weinke. My only doubt is that the Noles will miss their veteran linebacking squad and get beat by the run-

Chris AUSTIN
Sports Commentary

ning game.

I also think that Georgia Tech is another program from the ACC that is going to step it up in '99. Coming off of a 10-2 season the Yellow Jackets, led by QB Joe Hamilton, have the potential to contend for a conference championship. Their offense is predicted to be one of the best in Tech history. It is centered around a strong offensive line that is protecting a talented quarterback. The biggest flaw in the Yellow Jackets' game plan is their defense. They lack the big D-line and linebackers to win key games.

There are always going to be a few teams in the top 25 that will fall way short of their rank. Well this year it's going to be Texas. After losing Heisman Trophy winner (now New Orleans Saint) Ricky Williams, the Longhorns lack the talent and leadership to win football games. Head coach Mac Brown definitely has his hands full, and after the first few games it's all going to slip through his fingers.

It's a long road to a college football championship, but we're going to find out who has the heart and determination to get the job done. When it comes down to it, the '99 NCAA football season is going to be a great one and that's the bottom line.

Sabre Volleyball Enthusiastic For Upcoming Season

By John Lakas
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

If you have walked through the gym after school this year you might have noticed an enthusiastic woman. Her name is Leslie Berens and she is the new Lady Sabre volleyball coach. This is Coach Berens first year coaching volleyball, but don't let that fool you; she has quite an extensive background. She played volleyball for four years in high school, then went on to play at Miami (OH) on a scholarship. There she helped lead her team into the top 20 in the nation.

Since then she has coached at Mecklenburg Aquatic Center and now is a member of the Sabre family. Along with her experience she has brought something much more to the Lady Sabre team enthusiasm.

"I know there is a tradition of excellence at South Meck and I just want to add to that," says Berens.

Coach Berens should have no trouble adding to the program with her talented squad. The Sabre volleyball team consists of seven returning seniors, among them are captains Sandra Epps and Denise Huntley. In addition to these players are senior Joy Hughes and junior Emily Callahan, who are



Julia Flumian / Staff Photographer

both coming off a fantastic 1998 season. Yet the most explosive of all the talent has been the Tonga sisters, Leini and Seini. Both of them transferred from a well-respected volleyball team in Louisiana and have added new height to the team. Seini, a junior, is the older Tonga sister

and has earned herself quite a reputation on the court.

"I feel we have the skill to go far in states and our coach can get us there," says Seini.

The Sabre volleyball team has set some high goals this year, but they have confidence to back them up. They have focused themselves on being top three in the conference and beating their conference rivals West Charlotte and Providence.

"With our new height and coach we have an outstanding chance of achieving our goals and moving on to states," replies Denise Huntley.

The Sabres want people to realize how great they really are and to go out and support them.

"Volleyball is not just bump, set, spike! It involves strategy and plays which brings excitement to the game," says Coach Berens. Maybe one weeknight after you finished that awful chemistry homework, go out and see why people have been raving about the Lady Sabre volleyball team.

College Football Top 25

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Florida St. | 6-0 |
| 2. Penn St. | 6-0 |
| 3. Nebraska | 5-0 |
| 4. Va Tech | 6-0 |
| 5. Michigan St. | 4-1 |
| 6. Tennessee | 5-1 |
| 7. Florida | 4-1 |
| 8. Ga Tech | 5-0 |
| 9. Kansas St. | 5-1 |
| 10. Michigan | 4-1 |
| 11. Alabama | 6-0 |
| 12. Miss. St. | 4-1 |
| 13. Texas A&M | 4-1 |
| 14. Georgia | 5-0 |
| 15. Marshall | 5-1 |
| 16. Syracuse | 4-2 |
| 17. Wisconsin | 4-2 |
| 18. Ohio St. | 5-2 |
| 19. Texas | 4-2 |
| 20. Purdue | 4-1 |
| 21. BYU | 5-1 |
| 22. Mississippi | 5-1 |
| 23. East Carolina | 2-3 |
| 24. Miami | 3-2 |
| 25. So. Miss. | |

Sabre Soccer Displays Great Potential for 1999 Season

By Laura King
STAFF ARTIST

The varsity men's soccer team displays great potential for the fall 1999 season. Despite having lost eight seniors to graduation last year, the Sabres still have six starters remaining from their extremely successful 1998 campaign, in which they compiled a record of seventeen wins, four losses, and two ties. Returning players include senior Chris Wyer and junior Drew Llewellyn, who were all-conference and all-region performers last year.

During the first half of the season, which features mainly non-conference opponents, the Sabres have posted an impressive record of seven wins, three losses and one tie. Their biggest victory came against North Meck, who claimed second place in the state championship last spring, on August 21; prior to kickoff, North Meck was ranked number one in the Charlotte Observer's Sweet Sixteen. Senior Mike Benfield, led the Sa-

bres to the upset victory with a prolific three-goal performance.

Coach Lynch hopes senior captains Jeff Tate and Chris Wyer can lead South to a Southwestern 4A conference championship this year. The talented Myers Park Mustangs, who reached the state semifinals last year before falling to North Meck, will likely represent the Sabres' most difficult test. Coach Lynch adds that the defense is probably the strongest facet of the team.

"The key to our success in the conference will be playing solid defense throughout the year," he says. Junior Charlie Everett has consistently displayed solid performances at sweeper throughout the early part of the season, and junior Philip Trotter has been effective in the goal for the Sabres with five shutouts in eleven games. Other key defenders include Scott Andrews, Scott Whelchel, and David Eargle, a junior who successfully filled the shoes of Scott Whelchel when he was sidelined with mononucleosis.

The squad is well-rounded,

featuring ample talent at both ends of the field. The roster is relatively small, consisting of only sixteen players, but Coach Lynch feels comfortable regardless of who he puts on the field because of the depth of the talent on the team. Many of the players on the squad are flexible,

backup goalkeeper, has proven his ability to exhibit solid performances at the forward position.

An impressive goal ratio is an indication of just how talented the Sabres are. Through eleven games, South Meck has outscored opponents fifty-one



which also creates depth as well as versatility. For example, Mike Benfield, South's leading scorer with fourteen goals in eleven games, was primarily a defender last season. In addition, junior Leif Ellsworth, the

to sixteen. If the Myers Park Mustangs expect to repeat as conference champions this year, they will first have to overcome a tough, talented South Meck squad that has the potential to stage a huge upset.



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Cross Country Sets Goal at States

By John Lakas
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

After coming off a spectacular season last year, the Sabre cross-country team has a lot expected of them this fall. If you have forgotten, the cross-country team had a once in a lifetime performance to capture the Conference title in 1998. Since then the team had articles published in *The Charlotte Observer* and *Runner's World* magazine. In addition, the team's victory was covered on the WCNC six o'clock news. Yet, the cross-country team knows they have more potential than they did last year.

The Sabre cross-country team is returning six of the seven varsity members from last year. Among those are seniors and captains Chris Gordon, John Lakas, Brendan McHugh, and Alexi Neill. The Sabres also have added some young talent to the squad led by Derek Smit, Adam Slaughter, and Heath Spivey.

"We definitely will have a strong season, maybe the best cross-country season ever at South," says Coach Brian Zelk. Zelk has focused the team on their goals at regionals and states and hopes to lead the team to another successful cross-country season.

The team is looking forward to the conference and regional meets with much anticipation, but they also have an exciting schedule beforehand. The team took their annual beach trip to Wilmington in September. There they spent two days at the beach enjoying the ocean. They also hosted the Great American High School Cross-Country Festival, where teams from around the region came to participate in an exciting meet. The meet was highlighted by a photo finish between Ricky Brookshire and Alan Webb. Both of these runners have established themselves as national class. Alan Webb earned attention last year when he broke Jim Ryun's mile record and he was able to edge out Brookshire in the race.

The Sabre runners are striving to reach their goals but they would also like to gain more respect for the sport. Some people often joke that cross-country is not a true sport but the Sabres would like to prove them wrong. This year the team hopes to show that South Mecklenburg cross-country is a true powerhouse and the sport of cross-country is no cake walk.

Visit South Mecklenburg's very own web page at:

www.cms.k12.nc.us/allschools/south/

SABRES SHOOT FOR THE MOON

By Alexi Neill
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Carlton Bailey is bringing new life to the South Meck football team. Bailey has been named the interim head coach of the team and is looking to rebuild a football program that has struggled in recent years. Bailey, who has played linebacker in the NFL for 10 years, most recently for the Carolina Panthers, brings needed experience to the program.

Bailey wants to get off to a good start this year in order to gain back the respect that South has lost from their fans and other teams. He is aiming high this year and hopes to get the team back to where it was in the 1980s when they reached the playoffs consistently and won a state championship in 1981 and 1986.

"Always shoot for the moon and if you fall a little short, you will land among the stars," says Bailey about the playoffs.

Bailey is installing a 3-4 style of defense that he used while with the Panthers in order to reach this goal. This defense centers on an attacking, blitzing style and Bailey feels that his team has done a great job with it so far. The offense is also coming along and the team will be



Julia Flumian / Staff Photographer

led this year by Cameron Stinson, Brian Shiels, Shun Harris, and Jason Peterson.

Bailey's NFL influence is already evident by the fact that he had 30 more people come out this year compared to last year. Bailey says that he even had to buy more helmets to accommodate more players.

"It is a big difference going from someone who played only four years in college (Coach Shaughnessy) to someone who has played 10 years in the NFL," adds starting center, Brian Shiels. It is not all up to Bailey,

however, but also to the team and assistant coaches to make it happen.

"What makes a good head coach is great assistant coaches," remarks Bailey.

The team also has a certain bond this year that it has lacked in recent years. Before every game they have a war song and a chant that they recite that gets them ready for any opponent that they must face. The pieces are all in place for the team this year and they should be able to make some noise in the conference.

Golf's Future Promising

Golf's future is looking pretty bright heading into the new millennium. I think that golf is right now the sport in the greatest shape as there are a handful of talented and young players who are going to carry this game to heights never before experienced. Here are three names that will definitely make an impact on the direction that golf is headed in the future.

1. Tiger vs. El Nino

Yes. Everyone wants to make this into the new rivalry; the one that finally lives up to the hype that Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer built in the '60s. I don't blame them because obviously as much as the world wanted to make a Woods versus David Duval rivalry; it just could not happen due to Duval's calm demeanor on the course and his mechanical, methodical actions. He just did not have the personality. Now

Joon LEE
Sports Commentary

comes along Sergio Garcia, El Nino (the Child) as he is called, a 19-year old, challenging Woods at the PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club in Illinois. Garcia already has a European Tour victory, a spot on the Ryder Cup team, and he exudes charisma unmatched by anyone else - anyone else but Woods that is. After months of revamping his swing and pretty much his game, Woods, 23, has taken golf by storm, winning five of the last eight tournaments he has played in and finally fulfilling the potential he showed when first bursting onto the PGA Tour scene in 1996. Simply put, these two should be carrying golf on their shoulders for at least the next 15 to 20 years.

2. David Duval

His personality may be the blandest you have ever seen, but his golf game speaks for itself. Behind the shades is a man who has won four times in 1999, shot a 59 to win the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, and is still looking for a major championship after coming up just short at the Masters in 1998 and the U.S. Open in 1999. At only 27, Duval is primed to be atop quite a few leaderboards in 2000.

Along with Woods, Garcia, and Duval, there are plenty of players in their late 20s and early 30s to carry golf into the next century, such as Justin Leonard, Phil Mickelson, and Jim Furyk. When it comes to crunch time though, it seems that Woods, Garcia, and Duval are a notch above the rest.



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Senior Mysteries



By Julia Flumian
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

You might know this smiling senior at South decked out in hemp and "Deadwear." You will probably see her pulling up in her Jimmy blasting Jump, Little Children or Phish. She spent her summer tracking across Europe. She can be seen on the weekends with friends or at her favorite store, Sunshine Daydreams. She is a talented photographer and often lends her other artistic talents to the theater. Her dream man is Slater from Dazed and Confused. When she's not making necklaces for friends you will find her in AP classes or working on yearbook. She also finds time in her busy schedule to work at Ben and Jerry's. Still confused? Turn to page 5 for the answer.



By Neil Smith
STAFF WRITER

This senior mystery is well known not only at South but all over Charlotte, especially at Myers Park. He is a captain of the Sabre Lacrosse team and has competed on the track and cross country teams. This sabre ranks at the top of his class academically and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club. He received the Geometry award his freshman year. He gained fame in the lower lot with his car "the brown bullet" which he has since traded in for a silver Honda Accord. If you still don't know who he is, this senior mystery can be found skiing black diamonds and is rumored to be dating the Asian girl in the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue. Still do not know? Check page 5.

Student Forum

If you would like you see your work in the Student Forum please submit it to a Sabres' Blade staff member or bring it by Ms. Holm's room, B-2.

By Lisa Howell

I sit reminiscing about
days before
It comes back a memory
I miss him more.

I picture the tears that
fell fast from eyes
The sobs that escaped
the hate, the despise.

Banded together to deal
with the pain
shoulders to cry on
a crowded football game.

The band broke out into
"Amazing Grace"
The start of the drums
brought tears to one's face.

A line of bodies circled
real slow
the wax burned my fingers
from the candle's bright
glow.

The silence is broken with
questions of why
someone was taken
we're left here to cry.

Hugs of good-bye as
people took their leave
it was all in his memory
and people did grieve.

I have

By Julia Flumian

I have
nothing
But memories
I could wait for the
stars to melt
and the planets to be
engulfed
in dust
and they would still
haunt

I have
not forgotten
your tumultuous lie
and shattered mind

I have
waited so long
to have and to hold

I have
grown and accepted
I have
me
and empty arms



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